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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SAJ-01

/062 W
---------- 119583
R 150750Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3249
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6690

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GE, FR, CH
SUBJ: FAREWELL CALL ON FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO THE GDR, HENRY BAYLE

1. ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1976, I MADE MY FAREWELL CALL ON AMBASSADOR HENRY BAYLE OF FRANCE. DCM POLANSKY HAD BRIEFED MR. JACQUES JESSEL OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY CONCERNING MY TALK WITH GENERAL SECRETARY HONECKER ON AUGUST 27, BUT I ASKED AMBASSADOR BAYLE IF HE DESIRED ANY FURTHER INFORMATION. HE THEN ASKED ME TO TALK TO HIM IN THEIR SPECIAL CONFERENCE ROOM. I REVIEWED MY CONVERSATION WITH HONECKER, LEAVING OUT DETAILS REGARDING HUMANITARIAN ISSUES, JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS, AND OTHER MATTERS OF SPECIFIC IMPORTANCE TO THE US. I CONFIRMED THE USG POSITION ON THE CONSULAR CONVENTION. HE DID NOT RESPOND REGARDING THE FRENCH POSITION.

HE ASKED ME ABOUT MY VIEWS ON THE SOVIET PROTEST OF WEST BERLIN'S VOTING IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIMENTARY ELECTIONS. I TOLD HIM THAT, AS HE KNEW, I HAD NO COMPETENCE IN THESE MATTERS BUT, OF COURSE, KNEW ABOUT THE ISSUE AND THE
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DISCUSSIONS IN BONN. HE STATED AS HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT

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THE PROTESTS WOULD CONTINUE BUT THOUGHT THE STATEMENTS OF FALIN AND ABRASIMOV REGARDING THE QA INDICATED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS NOT PRESSING FOR A "REINTERPRETATION OF THE QA." AGAIN EMPHASIZING THAT HE WAS EXPRESSING HIS PERSONAL VIEW, HE THOUGHT THE SOVIET UNION CONSIDERED THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ISSUE TO BE VERY IMPORTANT. HE THEN SAID THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ISSUE ILLUSTRATED CERTAIN AMBIGUITIES IN THE QA WHICH HAD BEEN NECESSARY TO SECURE FOUR POWER AGREEMENT.

3. HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE GDR WAS MAKING AN EFFORT TO REDUCE TENSIONS ON THE BORDER. I HAD TOLD HIM ABOUT HONECKER'S STATEMENT THAT HE INTENDED TO CALM DOWN THE BORDER SITUATION.

4. AMBASSADOR BAYLE THOUGHT THE SMALL FRENCH EXHIBIT AT THE LEIPZIG FAIR HAD ATTRACTED REASONABLE ATTENTION AND, IN CONJUNCTION WITH AN AGREEMENT ON TRADE, WHICH HE LATER DESCRIBED, INDICATED AN IMPROVEMENT IN FRENCH/GDR RELATIONS. HE SAID THE FISCHER VISIT TO PARIS IN JANUARY HAD NOT BEEN OF GREAT IMPORTANCE, AND THE RETURN VISIT OF THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER WAS STILL UNCERTAIN AS TO TIME, AS IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR HIM TO STOP IN "OTHER PLACES" BEFORE COMING TO BERLIN. THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT DE CHALVRON HAD STATED THAT IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD STOP IN WEST BERLIN BEFORE COMING TO EAST BERLIN (BERLIN 6221).

5. HE THEN DESCRIBED THE FRENCH/GDR TRADE AGREEMENT WHICH HAD BEEN APPROVED. THE FRENCH HAD AGREED TO SELL TO THE GDR CERTAIN EQUIPMENT FOR THE DISTILLATION OF OIL INTO VARIOUS PRODUCTS AND, AS HE BELIEVED, THE DISTILLATION OF BROWN COAL. HE WAS NOT CLEAR ABOUT WHETHER THE MATERIAL TO BE "DISTILLED" WAS OIL OR BROWN COAL OR BOTH, ALTHOUGH I ATTEMPTED TO ELICIT A MORE PRECISE ANSWER. AS AN AID TOWARD REDUCING THE GDR'S UNFAVORABLE BALANCE OF TRADE WITH FRANCE, FRANCE WOULD BUY FROM THE GDR PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM THE DISTILLATION EQUIPMENT. AMBASSADOR BAYLE SAID THERE WERE NOT MANY GDR PRODUCTS IN WHICH FRANCE HAD ANY INTEREST, BUT CONFIDENTIAL

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HE CONSIDERED THE AGREEMENT A STEP TOWARD INCREASING TRADE AND THE BETTERMENT OF POLITICAL RELATIONS. UNLIKE THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY OTHER EMBASSIES THAT THE GDR IS RELIABLE IN TRADE MATTERS, BAYNE THOUGHT THAT THE GDR HAD NOT FULFILLED, IN SOME INSTANCES, ITS TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH FRENCH COMPANIES.

6. AS AMBASSADOR BAYLE COMES TO THE GDR FROM PAKISTAN,

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I ASKED HIM HIS VIEWS ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE
DEATH OF MAO. HE SAID THIS WAS A QUESTION FOR EVERYONE.
HE THOUGHT IT WOULD TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE ANY CONCRETE
EVALUATION COULD BE MADE. HE HOPED, AND HIS COUNTRY HOPED,
THAT A STRONG MAN WOULD EMERGE AND CONTINUE PRESENT
POLICIES TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION, AS THE RESOLUTION OF
SOVIET/PRC DIFFICULTIES WOULD POSE A GRAVE PROBLEM FOR
THE WESTERN WORLD.

7. AMBASSADOR BAYNE DID NOT ASK ME ABOUT US/GDR RELATIONS
AND DID NOT SPEAK OF US/FRENCH RELATIONS.

8. I HAVE ONLY TALKED TO AMBASSADOR BAYLE ON TWO OCCASIONS. HE
SPEAKS VERY GOOD ENGLISH. HE APPEARS CALMS AND REFLECTIVE.
COOPER

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